

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/633,158

Examiner

Brian Q. Le

Applicant(s)

KOSHIBA ET AL.

Art Unit

2624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 01/18/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-7.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As explained in the Non-Final Office Action, regarding independent claims 1 and 7, the prior art of records do not show a method of estimating the size of variable-length code or an encoding method comprises the limitation of "estimating a code size for said block of quantized coefficients as a sum of terms where each of said terms is a product of (i) the number of said quantized coefficients in a bin of said histogram and (ii) a code size of a variable length code for an average run of zero-valued ones of said quantized coefficients together with a representative level for said bin" in combination with other limitations of the claims.

Claims not specifically addressed are allowed because are dependent of the allowed independent claims.

Below are references that teach some limitations of the claims but are lack the teaching of disclosed limitations above:

U.S. Patent No. 6,658,157 to Satoh et al. teaches of encoding (abstract) wherein providing a block of quantized coefficients (abstract and column 2, lines 65-67), variable length coding and non-zero coefficients (column 10, lines 28-43) and code size determination (column 24, lines 45-64). However, Satoh et al. does not teach an estimating code size of block of quantized coefficients or an encoding method as "a sum of terms where each of said terms is a product of (i) the number of said quantized coefficients in a bin of said histogram and (ii) a code size of a variable length code for an average run of zero-valued ones of said quantized coefficients together with a representative level for said bin."

U.S. Patent No. 6,909,811 to Kajiwara et al. teaches an encoding method (abstract, line 1) wherein providing a block of quantized coefficients (FIG. 6, elements 602 and 604), variable length encoding (FIG. 1, element 102), run-length code size (FIG. 15) and histogram of quantized values (column 19, lines 20-25). Again, Kajiwara et al. does not teach an estimating code size of block of quantized coefficients or an encoding method as “a sum of terms where each of said terms is a product of (i) the number of said quantized coefficients in a bin of said histogram and (ii) a code size of a variable length code for an average run of zero-valued ones of said quantized coefficients together with a representative level for said bin.”

Thus, the prior art of records do not show or provide a motivation of teaching of a method of estimating the size of variable-length code or an encoding method comprises the limitation of “estimating a code size for said block of quantized coefficients as a sum of one or more terms where each of said terms is a product of (i) the number of said quantized coefficients in a bin of said histogram and (ii) a code size of a variable length code for an average run of zero-valued ones of said quantized coefficients together with a representative level for said bin” in combination with other limitations of the claims 1 and 7.

2. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

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CONTACT INFORMATION

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian Q. Le whose telephone number is 571-272-7424. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 A.M - 5:30 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mathew Bella can be reached on 571-272-7778. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

BL
March 19, 2007



MATTHEW C. BELLA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600